

Appl. No. 10/708,615
Amdt. Date Oct. 6, 2004
Reply to Office Action of July 13, 2004

REMARKS

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Treibergs et al (US Patent No. 6,045,370, hereinafter Treibergs).

Specifically, the Examiner stated that " Treibergs (figures 2 and 3) discloses an electrical connector assembly comprising: an insulative frame 12 comprising two opposite edges 30 and opposite first and second ends between the edges, a clip pivotally mounted to the first end of the frame, the clip comprising an extending portion and a post removably attached at the extending portion, and an actuator 54 pivotally mounted to the second end of the frame, the actuator 54 comprising a driver and urging means for urging the clip, wherein when pivoting the driver, the driver at all times remains substantially within the confines of the frame

Response

Referring to FIG. 3 as well as the description between lines 36-40, column 2, Treibergs only discloses that the lid 40 pivotally connected to the base 12 includes a rib 48 extending along the lid 40. It fails to disclose that the lid 40 includes a post removably attached thereon.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is patentably distinguishable from Treibergs. Applicant requests that the rejection should be withdrawn for at least this reason.

Claims 2-8 are directly or indirectly dependent on claim 1 and should, therefore, also be allowed.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 9-11 and claims 12-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being

Appl. No. 10/708,615
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unpatentable over Treibergs in view of Shabbir et al (US Patent No. 6,400,565, hereinafter, Shabbir).

Specifically, the Examiner stated that Treibergs discloses the claimed invention except for a replaceable/detachable solid post being attached to a distal end of the clip, while Shabbir discloses a metal cover with a replaceable post 41. The Examiner concluded that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Treibergs to use the metal cover with separate post as taught by Shabbir.

Response

It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner has mischaracterized Shabbir as well as improperly combined Treibergs and Shabbir.

The Examiner has incorrectly characterized the retaining member 40 of Shabbir as having a replaceable retention member 41. Referring to FIGS. 2 and 3 as well as the relevant description of Shabbir, there is no implication or indication that the retention member 41 is detachable /replaceable. Actually, Shabbir only discloses that the retention member 41 is attached to the retaining member 40 to engage the mating retention member 43 of the mounting frame 22 (column 4, lines 22-28).

The Examiner stated that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Treibergs to use the metal cover with separate post as taught by Shabbir. Applicant submits, however, that such motivation is illogical. Firstly, there is no implication that the retaining member 41 of Shabbir is replaceable. Secondly, even though the retaining member 41 disclosed by Shabbir is detachable, it is still unclear how the socket 10 of Treibergs can be modified to have the retention member 41 with the rib 48 thereon, cooperates with the retention member 41 so as to help heat transfer.

Appl. No. 10/708,615

Amdt. Date Oct. 6, 2004

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Furthermore, the object of Shabbir is to provide a thermal interface member having a low thermal resistance to cost-effectively facilitate the replacement of the heat-generating component. The main object of Treibergs is to provide a socket for establishing a releasable connection between terminals of an electronic module and a circuit board. Neither Treibergs nor Shabbir relates to the replacement of the clip. Accordingly, Examiner's argument fails as proper motivation to combine the above-mentioned references.

In summary, the socket disclosed in Treibergs and the apparatus for cooling disclosed in Shabbir teach away from the core and spirit of the present invention. This supports a conclusion of unobviousness of the invention as defined in claim 9. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the claimed invention 9 is patentable over the recited references and is in condition for allowance.

The amended claim 10 and the newly added claims 14-16 are directly or indirectly dependent on claim 9 and should, therefore, be allowed wherein claim 16 further defines the post extending along the axis perpendicular to another axis about which the clip is pivotally moveable, which is not disclosed in the cited references.

Claims 11 to 13 are deleted without prejudice and the rejections thereto are now moot.

Conclusion

In light of the above remarks, an allowance of all the pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Appl. No. 10/708,615
Amdt. Date Oct. 6, 2004
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